

18 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

[REDACTED]

Chief, Classification Review Division

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SUBJECT:

Conversation with Larry Pickering,
Director, Classification/Declassification Center,
Systematic Review, Regarding Foreign Relations of
the United States (FRUS) Volumes and FRUS Supple-
mental Documents

1. In a conversation with Larry Pickering on 18 December, he advised me that he had talked with Mr. Glennon, HO, regarding our position concerning the inclusion of two documents in FRUS, Volume XII, 1952-54, which had previously been released in the official version of the Pentagon Papers. (I had advised Larry in a previous conversation that we would still insist that the two documents not be included in the Volume, but in light of their previous release, had no objection to their being referred in a footnote, editorial note, etc. Larry had told me that the position of NSC and State's Bureau is the same.) Larry said that HO didn't seem to have a problem with this position.

2. He told me that he had asked HO to copy the material selected for Volume V, 1955-57, on the Summit Conference and Central Europe, so that this material could be sent to us for review. He added that there were probably several volumes which could be made ready for review if we wanted to apply the manpower to them.

3. Larry further advised me that he has a paper from HO regarding the FRUS documents to be put on microfiche. They have identified as candidate documents: 17 feet of daily summaries prepared for the Secretary of State, 16 feet of the Secretary's memoranda of conversation, and 19 feet of conference files. He noted that they would most likely tackle the daily summaries first since these date from 1945 to 1954 and most of the summaries prior to 1949 have already been declassified.

4. Larry stated that he would be happy to discuss with us any suggestions we might have for the review of the FRUS supplemental documents. I took the opportunity to tell him that I had tasked my Branch Chiefs with the research on continuing manpower requirements for support of other agencies' programs and that Chief, Administration Branch, had been assigned the responsibility to determine those requirements for FRUS review and the FRUS supplemental review.

5. In closing Larry reminded me that he was interested in discussing with our expert certain problems concerning the review of material covering the Near East. I had told him in an earlier conversation that we would probably have to assign it to one of our generalists since we did not have someone with extensive experience in that part of the world. He said he would like to bring over his reviewer to discuss the material probably sometime soon after the start of the new year.

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Distribution:

Orig - Liaison w/Dept. of State

- 1 - FRUS, Vol XII, 1952-54
- 1 - Chief, Admin Branch
- 1 - Chrono

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17 December 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM:

Chief, Classification Review Division

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SUBJECT:

Discussion of the Review Process for the
Foreign Relations of the United States
(FRUS) Series with Representatives of the
Department of State

1. On 9 December the Chiefs of the Operations, Administration, and Science and Technology Branches and the Acting Chief of the Intelligence Branch and I travelled to the Department of State to discuss with the Acting Historian the procedure that State employs to compile the volumes of the FRUS series, and to obtain more information concerning the projected workload for the review of the FRUS supplemental documents.

2. We met first with Larry Pickering, Director, CDC/SR, and Hugh Woodward of his shop, and then proceeded to the offices of the Office of the Historian, Bureau of Public Affairs, where we met Mr. William Z. Slany, the Acting Historian, and Neal H. Peterson, the Acting Deputy Historian. Mr. Slany opened the conversation by providing us with an organization chart of the Office of the Historian (attached). He then ran through the general procedure employed for compiling the FRUS volumes. He indicated that they had recently decided to compile the FRUS in triennial periods versus the annual periods of the earlier volumes. The reason for the change was that they believed it would allow them to cover continuing incidents more efficiently and effectively as opposed to cutting off the volumes (and thus the subjects) arbitrarily at the end of a year. The value of the change was still being reviewed. The procedure commenced, he advised, in the reading of general materials on the period, geographic area, incidents, etc., and in bibliographic research which gave them background to compile a table of contents. This review of the published material concerning the period tends to give them a sense of significant issues that occurred during the period. They also impose on the process some of their own understanding of what may be important, recognizing the risk that that kind of subjective approach entails. They then tend to allow the material to dictate the organization of the series. He noted that they were looking more toward functional coverage in the recent volumes rather than the bilateral coverage applied heretofore; e.g., coverage of the Geneva Conference, U.N. International Conferences, the Suez Crisis. The subjects will thus vary from triennium to triennium. He noted that they are planning 16 volumes for the 1958-60 period, with perhaps separate volumes on Cuba, Germany, and Lebanon.

They tend to do their research for the documents in the presidential libraries and the Department itself, and then in other agencies such as AID and the Departments of Commerce and Defense, and then they begin to collect their documents. They have storage facilities and persons cleared for SCI. The material is compiled and edited along the lines of the table of contents and massaged to bring it into readable form. At that point it is reviewed by a senior editing body following which CDC takes steps to have the material reviewed and sanitized or declassified on behalf of State and by the other agencies concerned.

3. Mr. Slany discussed some of the problems that they have had with the printing of the previous volumes. Although the people who handle the material at GPO are cleared through Secret, and controls have been established over the material when it is submitted to GPO, he is concerned about the fact that now some 14 volumes in galley form, which have yet to be cleared for final printing, are being held at GPO while the clearance process goes on. Not only does this raise security questions but the material has been cast in lead, and the old linotypers who knew how to set type in lead are gradually leaving as the new electronic typesetting processes take over. HO has worked up a system which it is still testing which allows them to use word processing techniques to prepare the volume and to produce a biproduct tape which would then be given to GPO for typesetting electronically in galley proofs.

4. I expressed my concern about the fact that this sensitive material is exposed to GPO in spite of their limited clearances because of the potential for exposure of sensitive information, whether it is sensitive operational information or SCI which has been transmitted in memoranda of conversation. I advised them that the Agency has a secure printing capability which could conceivably be used to print the galley proofs, assuming that the language of the tape that HO produces from its word processor would be compatible or could be made compatible with the language incorporated in our printing process. I told them that I would like to explore this possibility which could relieve us all of a variety of security concerns. Both Mr. Slany and Mr. Pickering responded positively to that suggestion.

5. We turned then to a discussion of the supplemental documents to FRUS, but regrettably were not able to obtain much more information regarding the volume of the material which we might have to review. They are eager to move into a review of this material some time this winter or early spring. At present they know that they have about 20 cubic feet of material to be reviewed which covers the period 1948 (?) to 1954, but they advised that the ultimate collection that they would like to consider as a supplement to the FRUS volumes could be considerably larger.

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